

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 09860 270833Z
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-14 EA-12 EUR-12 NEA-10
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AMEMBASSY HELSINKI IMMEDIATE

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FROM USDEL

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PORG, SF, WA
SUBJECT: APARTHEID CONFERENCE: FRIDAY MORNING SESSION:
COMMEMORATION OF NAMIBIA DAY

REF: LAGOS 9767

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PAGE 02 LAGOS 09860 270833Z

1. SUMMARY: PLENARY MORNING SESSION ON AUGUST 26 WAS DEVOTED TO OBSERVANCE OF NAMIBIA DAY. CONFERENCE WAS ADDRESSED BY NIGERIAN COMMISSIONER FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS GARBA: COUNCIL FOR NAMIBIA PRESIDENT GWENDOLYN KONIE (ZAMBIA PERMREP TO THE UN); PTOLEMY REID, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER OF GUYANA: OLAVI MARTIKAINEN, MINISTER OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND HEALTH OF FINLAND: PAOLO JORGE, FOREIGN MINISTER OF ANGOLA: AND MARTTI AHTISAARI, UN COMMISSIONER

FOR NAMIBIA. FOLLOWING A 40 MINUTE RECESS GARBA, AS PRESIDENT OF THE CONFERENCE, READ THE ENTIRE DRAFT OF THE LAGOS DECLARATION FOR ACTION AGAINST APARTHEID. AFTER THE DECLARATION WAS ADOPTED BY ACCLAMATION, GHANA TOOK THE FLOOR TO ASK WHETHER AMENDMENTS COULD BE MADE TO THE DECLARATION AND THEN DISCUSSED. HE WAS OVER-RULED BY GARBA. END SUMMARY.

2. MORNING SESSION OF LAGOS CONFERENCE CONVENED AT 10:40 TO COMMEMORATE NAMIBIA DAY, AUGUST 26. FOLLOWING ARE SUMMARIES OF SPEECHES ON NAMIBIA:

A. IN OPENING STATEMENT CONFERENCE PRESIDENT GARBA NOTED THAT THE ARMED STRUGGLE LAUNCHED BY NAMIBIAN PEOPLE WOULD NOT BE EASY, AND THEIR ENEMY WAS "BRUTAL AND ARMED TO THE TEETH." HE CITED THE SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY OF THE UN FOR NAMIBIA AND ITS SACRED DUTY TO PROVIDE ALL NECESSARY ASSISTANCE TO THE NAMIBIAN PEOPLE. HE SAID HE WAS SURE THAT ALL PARTICIPANTS OF THE CONFERENCE WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS THEIR SOLIDARITY WITH THE NAMIBIAN PEOPLE AND THE NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENT. PARTICIPANTS OF THE CONFERENCE THEN ROSE TO OBSERVE A MINUTE OF SILENCE IN TRIBUTE "TO ALL THOSE WHO HAVE LAID DOWN THEIR LIVES FOR THE FREEDOM OF NAMIBIA."

B. COUNCIL FOR NAMIBIA PRESIDENT KONIE ALSO NOTED THE MANY SACRIFICES AND ARDOUOUS STRUGGLE OF THE NAMIBIAN PEOPLE AGAINST THE ILLEGAL PRESENCE OF SOUTH AFRICA IN NAMIBIA. SHE
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PAGE 03 LAGOS 09860 270833Z

CONDEMNED THE SOUTH AFRICAN ATTACKS AGAINST NEIGHBORING AFRICAN COUNTRIES AND WESTERN SUPPORT FOR THE CRIMINAL DESIGNS OF PRETORIA.

C. GUYANA MINISTER REID EXPRESSED REGRET THAT PRIME MINISTER FORBES-BURNHAM HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO ATTEND THE CONFERENCE AS PLANNED. HE THEN READ BURNHAM'S SPEECH, WHICH WAS UNEXCEPTIONAL SAVE FOR HIS READING A RESOLUTION ADOPTED EARLIER THIS MONTH BY THE PEOPLE'S NATIONAL CONGRESS OF GUYANA.

D. FINNISH MINISTER MARTIKAINEN STATED THAT THE FACT THAT NAMIBIA DAY HAD TO BE CELEBRATED OUTSIDE NAMIBIA IS SAD PROOF OF SOUTH AFRICAN INTRANSIGENCE AND THE INABILITY OF THE WORLD COMMUNITY TO FULFILL ITS LONG OVERDUE OBLIGATIONS TOWARDS THE PEOPLE OF NAMIBIA. HE PRAISED THE COUNCIL FOR NAMIBIA AND PARTICULARLY ITS ESTABLISHMENT OF THE INSTITUTE FOR NAMIBIA IN LUSAKA IN 1976. HE CALLED FOR ECONOMIC SUPPORT BY ALL UN MEMBERS FOR NAMIBIA.

E. ANGOLAN FOREIGN MINISTER JORGE, SPEAKING AS THE CHAIRMAN OF THE OAU AFRICAN LIBERATION COMMITTEE, EXPRESSED THE COMMITTEE'S FIRM SUPPORT FOR SWAPO'S POSITION AND APPEALED FOR

MATERIAL, FINANCIAL AND OTHER AID IN SUPPORT OF SWAPO.

F. COMMISSIONER FOR NAMIBIA AHTISAARI DEVOTED MOST OF HIS SPEECH TO AN APPEAL FOR ASSISTANCE TO THE INSTITUTE FOR NAMIBIA. HE STRESSED PRIDE IN THE ACHIEVEMENTS MADE BY THE INSTITUTE IN ITS FIRST TWO YEARS. HE ALSO CITED THE PLANNED INCREASE IN ENROLLMENT FROM 100 TO 200 STUDENTS BY THE END OF THIS YEAR. HE CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT IN 1974 THE UN HAD PUBLISHED A BOOKLET ENTITLED "NAMIBIA: A TRUST BETRAYED." IT WAS NOT TIME FOR A NEW BOOKLET TO BE PUBLISHED ENTITLED "NAMIBIA: A TRUST FULFILLED."

3. THE PRESIDENT OF THE CONFERENCE THEN SUGGESTED THAT HE BE AUTHORIZED TO SEND A MESSAGE OF SOLIDARITY TO SWAPO ON BEHALF OF UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 04 LAGOS 09860 270833Z

THE CONFERENCE ON THE OCCASION OF NAMIBIA DAY. HE QUICKLY GAVELLED THE CONFERENCE'S AGREEMENT TO THIS PROPOSAL. THE CONFERENCE THEN RECESSED FOR 40 MINUTES PRIOR TO CONSIDERING THE DRAFT DECLARATION.

4. WHEN THE MEETING RESUMED GARBA READ THE ENTIRE DRAFT OF THE LAGOS DECLARATION (REFTEL), AFTER WHICH THE AUDIENCE APPLAUDED. GARBA SAID HE TOOK THE APPLAUSE TO INDICATE THAT THE CONFERENCE HAD ADOPTED THE DECLARATION BY CONSENSUS. THE GHANAIAAN REPRESENTATIVE, WHO HAD BEEN SIGNALLING TO GET THE FLOOR FOR SEVERAL MINUTES, THEN ADDRESSED THE CONFERENCE. HE SAID THERE WERE FINE POINTS OF DETAIL IN THE DECLARATION WHICH HE ASSUMED COULD BE DISCUSSED AND CHANGED ON SUGGESTIONS FROM THE CONFERENCE FLOOR. GARBA RESPONDED THAT IT WAS NOT HIS IDEA TO WORK OVER THE DECLARATION TEXT LINE BY LINE. IN FACT, THE FIRST DRAFT HAD BEEN PREPARED IN NEW YORK BY THE APARTHEID COMMITTEE AND THEN WORKED OVER BY THE STEERING COMMITTEE FOR SEVERAL DAYS. HE WOULD NOT PERMIT ANY AMENDMENTS. IF ANY DELEGATION HAD A PROBLEM WITH THE DRAFT IT COULD EXPLAIN ITS RESERVATIONS IN AFTERNOON SESSION. WITHOUT OBJECTION GARBA THEN ADJOURNED THE MEETING.
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Message Attributes

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